



"I want to go to Paris with the man I love."

Pfc. Jessica K. Ruoss
Company C,
141 Signal Battalion,
Unit Supply Specialist,
Bad Kreuznach, Germany

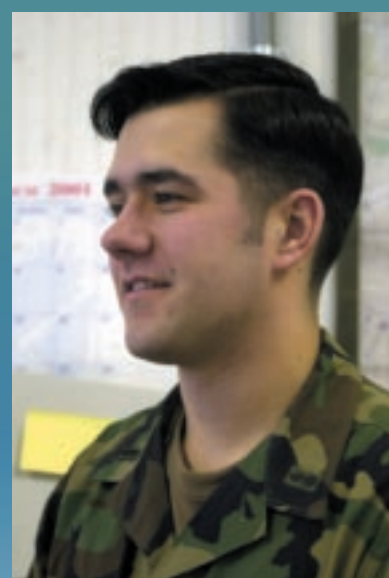


"I am going to go to Paris Disney. I have always wanted to meet Mickey."

Capt. Mary Card
Headquarters,
Task Force 2nd Battalion,
6th Infantry Regiment,
Command Judge Advocate,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo

Man on the street

**What
are you
going
to do
with your
tax return
?**



"I am going to make an extra car payment."

1st Lt. Robert Bohr
Company B,
47th Forward Support Battalion,
Shop Officer,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo



"I am going to put it away and save it for when I get out of the Army."

Pfc. Jeff E. Hellbusch
Company C,
2nd Battalion,
6th Infantry Regiment,
Bradley Driver,
Camp Monteith, Kosovo

Former division commander 1988-1989 returns to visit 1AD family 1st Armored Division

Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter
1st Armored Division PAO

BAD KREUZNACH, Germany—It's been 12 years since Gen. (Ret.) Frederick Franks commanded the 1st Armored Division. In January, when he visited 1AD soldiers conducting peace-keeping operations in Kosovo, it seemed as if he'd never left.

On Jan. 25, Franks traveled to Kosovo to get a firsthand look at what 1st Armored Division soldiers are doing now. Escorted by 1AD commander, Maj. Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. and 1AD command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Major Kenneth Preston, Franks spent three days touring the American sector and talking to 1AD soldiers.

In appearance, Franks resembles a college professor more than a retired combat veteran. At 5 foot 9 inches, he's slender and impeccably groomed. His hair has turned to salt and pepper with the gray, but his moustache—still trimmed to Army Regulation 670-1 standards—is pure white. Talking to 1AD soldiers manning the volatile Checkpoint Sapper on the Serbian border of Kosovo, his eyes crinkle with laugh lines from behind wire-rimmed glasses. He looks like a grandfather beaming with pride during his grandson's first at-bat.

Clad in khakis and an old, green flight jacket, Franks may have looked out of place among the soldiers who were dressed out in full battle rattle: Kevlar helmets, flak vests, load-bearing equipment and weapon. But when he



Former 1st Armored Division commander Gen. (Ret.) Frederick Franks receives a guided tour of Task Force Falcon checkpoints in Kosovo from soldiers of "Old Ironsides."

spoke to them, it wasn't the talk of an old veteran back to visit his former unit. It was the talk of soldiers, albeit one with a wealth of experience. Franks is almost a legend among those who are now climbing the ranks.

The younger officers and NCOs stood on the periphery, listening as the company commander briefed the small entourage, but they listened even more intently as Franks asked questions and made observations, demonstrating his keen awareness of not only the Balkans mission, but 1st Armored Division's involvement in it. They waited patiently before shyly asking to have their photos taken with him. Franks, appearing to be a reluctant celebrity, patiently posed with

each one.

"I see great pride in the division, 'Old Ironsides. Iron Soldiers.' It's great to hear that around. It's a great pleasure and inspiration to be able to come back to the division and talk about our profession, training and leader development. To see the pride and the great work that the division is doing today in a totally different national security environment than when I was the division commander."

Franks has returned several times to visit his former unit. As the VII Corps commander, Franks saw the 1st Armored Division in action during Operation Desert Storm. His most recent visit was last year during the V Corps Warfighter exercise.